REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 4 and 6 have been amended and claim 5 has been cancelled herein. New claims 7-13 have been added to more clearly define the invention.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshihiro (JP 08009448 A). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Yoshihiro does not disclose soft material formed on surfaces of upper and lower cases, wherein a portion of a surface of the soft material is corrugated to facilitate shock absorption, as recited in amended claim 4. In contrast, the surfaces of buffering members 41, 42 of Yoshihiro are smooth and non-corrugated. The buffering members are merely shaped to conform to a shape of the case main body 2. Accordingly, because Yoshihiro does not disclose each and every limitation set forth in amended claim 4, Yoshihiro does not anticipate claim 4 or claim 6, which depends therefrom. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihiro (JP 08009448 A) in view of Yasui (JP 10-244557). Traversal of this rejection is made for at least the following reasons. Neither Yoshihiro nor Yasui, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a waterproof rib formed of a soft material, wherein said waterproof rib is fitted into a waterproof groove opposed thereto to join the upper and lower cases water-tightly to each other, as recited in claim 1. The Examiner relied on buffering members 11 and 12 of Yoshihiro as being equivalent to the claimed waterproof rib and waterproof groove. However, buffering members 11 and 12 have a substantially rectangular cross-section (See Fig. 2) and are joined together via glue. Neither of the buffering members 11 or 12 include a rib or groove structure formed therein. Moreover, merely fitting the buffering members

11 and 12 into concave portions 13 and 14 of body members 3 and 4 and fastening and/or gluing body members 3 and 4 and buffering members 11 and 12 together, as described in Yoshihiro, is not sufficient to create a waterproof seal between case body members 3 and 4.

Further, while Figs. 4 and 5 and the corresponding descriptions of Yoshihiro disclose buffering members 31, 32, and 36, which include concave grooves provided therein for receiving end portions of the body members 3 and 4, such buffering members 31, 32, and 36 do not include a waterproof rib that can be fitted into a waterproof groove. Assuming *arguendo* that the end portions of the body members 3 and 4 can be considered equivalent to waterproof ribs, such end portions are not formed of a soft material provided on a periphery of a joint surface of upper and lower cases, as required by claim 1.

Yasui does not make up for the deficiencies of Yoshihiro. Yasui is directed to injection molding a gasket material 3 on a mating surface of a cover 1 for an electronic housing to mitigate the need for installation of an extra gasket material. Yasui does not disclose, teach, or suggest a waterproof rib or a waterproof groove formed in the gasket material 3. Moreover, forming a waterproof seal at the mating of the cases of the electronic equipment is absent from Yasui.

Thus, for at least the aforementioned reasons, neither Yoshihiro nor Yasui, individually or in combination, teach or suggest each and every limitation set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of Yoshihiro and Yasui does not make obvious claim 1 or claims 2 and 3, which depend therefrom. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

New claims 7-13 have been added. As discussed herein, the references do not disclose, teach, or suggest a waterproof rib formed of soft material located on a periphery of one of the upper and lower cases; and a waterproof groove formed of the soft material located on a periphery of the other of the upper and lower cases, wherein the waterproof rib and the waterproof groove are coupled together to facilitate a waterproof coupling between the upper case and the lower case, as recited in claim 7. Accordingly, allowance of independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-13 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33193.

Respectfully submitted,

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